

Twenty-fifth Sunday | Year A

September 24, 2023 (Isa 55:6-9 | Phil 1:20c-24, 27a | Matthew 20:1-16a)

Isaiah tells the Jews who returned from exile to seek God while he is with them. For the dead cannot seek God, only those who are still living can. Let us today call on him in our prayers.

1/ The Lord is near to all who call upon him, so let us bless him every day while we are alive. We pray that Pope Francis and pastoral leaders lead the faithful to seek God. Let us pray.

2/ For Paul, life on earth is Christ, and death is gain. That is, living in the flesh is to do the work of Christ, and death means that the dead are raised to be with the living God. For those who are caught between life and death and have no vision of God and Jesus. We pray that Paul's message to Philippian Christians open their hearts to God who can save. Let us pray.

3/ The Parable of the Landowner indicates that God's way often resists the expectations and standards of this world. For those who abide by the law of this world. We pray that Jesus's message in the parable may influence the minds of this world to change upward to the way of God. Let us pray.

4/ Another message in Jesus's parable is that God is offering his kingdom to Gentiles and sinners on equal terms with the Jews. Those who have been awaiting as well as those who turn to God at once are welcomed. For our sisters and brothers who have departed from us. We pray that they be counted among those who are in heaven. Today we remember **[at 4:30 PM]** Ruth, Rudolph, Gary and Donnie Fackler, and Marion Whelan; **[at 10:00 AM]** Stephen Zanone, Nick Ford, Lu Foushee, and Marion Whelan. Let us pray.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, look down upon your people in their moments of need, for you alone are the source of our peace. Help us to find your love in each other, so that justice and mercy may meet in our faith in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.